

COLLECTING CURIOS.

White Owls From Alaska and Oo's From Hawaii.

A most unique vessel is now on her way to San Francisco en route for Alaska says the S. F. Call of Sept. 20. On her return to South Haven, Mich., she will be placed on the great lakes as a floating museum. Dr. W. C. Ransome, who was formerly court physician to King Kalakua, of Hawaii, is the promoter of the scheme and he expects to make a big success of it.

In order to create this museum a collection of curiosities and specimens is necessary, and these are being gathered in all parts of the world. The vessel in which the cruise is being made was built in 1885 and was for a time in the grain trade on the lakes. She is 144 feet long, 27 feet wide and carries 300 tons of salt ballast. There is ample accommodation for the party of twenty who will make the voyage around the world in her.

Each member of the party was required to fit up his own stateroom, and, to become a member of the expedition, had to subscribe for at least five shares, valued at \$100 each, and pledge his services to the exclusive use of the company for three years. Time is given, however, for each member of the expedition to make a small private collection for his own use.

Of the party Dr. Ransome is the chief navigator and personal director. He is accompanied by his wife, who will chaperone the party. Among the other members are: Miss Laura Virginia Baldwin, Roy Gilson, H. E. Clippenger, F. Lee Slocum, W. A. Jennings, George Simons, W. H. Doolittle, Miss Anna Netobyby and others. Everything necessary to the collection of specimens and the study of the lands and people of the countries visited was taken along.

The voyage is to embrace all the historical points in Europe and Asia, but the bulk of the time is to be spent in the Southern Seas. There the specimens of the greatest interest are to be found. Japan will be explored, and then Alaska will be thoroughly ransacked for its treasures. Going to and returning from Sitka the party will stop at San Francisco. From here they will go to South America and will make a 200-mile tour up the Amazon. Thence they will go to the West Indies and home. Only three experienced sailors outside of the captain and first mate are on board, and all the hard work of the cruise outside of the cooking will be performed by the men and women of the party.

JAPAN'S POLITICAL STRENGTH.

Walter G. Smith's Comparison Between China and Japan.

A large and deeply interested audience listened last night in Golden Gate Hall to an instructive lecture entitled "The War Between Japan and China," delivered by Walter Gifford Smith, assistant city editor of the Chronicle and war correspondent of that paper in Japan, China, Korea and Hawaii, says the San Francisco Call. A hundred stereopticon views from photographs, taken while on the march or under the fire of Chinese guns, were displayed during the narrative, bringing the Oriental campaign vividly before the mind.

Mr. Smith was introduced by Fred d'Evelyn, president of the Geographical Society, and said in part:

The war between China and Japan, although it seemed to come suddenly, was in preparation by the Japanese as early as 1870. For a hundred years the relations between the two nations were strained; but China, then in her bow-and-arrow stage, was not anxious to engage in hostilities.

Not until the summer of 1894 did any European cabinet believe it possible that Japan would take the offensive. China was always regarded as a brooding lion by all the world that needed only to be awakened to cause havoc among the greater nations.

The Chinese at first refused to receive the Embassadors of foreign nations, and afterward only on condition that they crawl before the Emperor's presence. They held the Japanese to be not men but "baboons," and worthy of no consideration whatever.

A great change came over Japan near the year 1870. Her court was transferred from a fantastic oriental-ism to a condition bordering on the modern European. Her Emperor was garbed in European uniform. His wife was attired after Prussian mode. Japan knew the difference between political and geographical greatness. She was ambitious to become the England of the East.

Her army was well clothed, well rationed and well armed. It was under the finest discipline, and had educated officers at its head.

Japan, by a system of espionage begun years before the war, had thoroughly acquainted herself with the enemies country. When her troops landed in Korea they even found bundles of fuel stored up, prepared for their use.

The speaker concluded with a glowing eulogism to Japanese valor, and a prophecy of the coming greatness of the island kingdom. Its generals possessed the same fire of patriotism that Marion had when

he fought for America's freedom, and its soldiers went to the field of battle hoping that they might die for their country.

A Good Watch Dog.

The case of Jack Kane for keeping a ferocious dog came up in the District court yesterday morning. John French, the complainant, testified to having been bitten by the dog on October 4th. The story of the attack is as follows: French was in the habit of going into Kane's yard for peppers. The latter had gone to town to work and had left the dog in charge of his wife, thinking she would be a fit guardian. Upon the day mentioned, French walked to the gate and had just opened it when the dog in question sprang at him. The bite received was cause for immediate lodgment of the complaint which got Kane into trouble. The defendant was found guilty of maintaining a common nuisance, but sentence was suspended as Kane promised to kill the dog.

Football Matters.

Although there have been many rumors afloat of late to the effect that the Punahou College boys had formed a football team, the H. A. A. C. have received no answer to their letter asking information regarding the matter. The H. A. A. C. will hold a meeting in a day or so and it is to be hoped they will be able at that time to make some move toward forming their team. They will not do this, however, unless Punahou sends an answer. It is thought that the college boys have had ample time to consider the matter.

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